

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 13, and 19-40 are pending in the application, with claims 2, 19, 23, 29, and 38 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-18 were previously canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 19, 23, 29, and 36-38 are presently sought to be amended. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the canceled and amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating, on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2, 13, and 26 as allowed.

Applicants acknowledge Examiner's statements of Reasons for Allowance of the above-referenced patent application and agree that the claimed subject matter is patentable. However, Applicants take no position regarding the Reasons for Allowance presented by the Examiner other than the positions Applicants may have previously taken during prosecution. Therefore, the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance should not be attributed to Applicants as an indication of the basis for Applicants' belief that the claims are patentable. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of the

claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record and Applicants do not waive its rights to such arguments by not further addressing such reasons herein.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.133, Applicants provide the following statement of substance of the interview. Applicants express appreciation to Examiner Such for the courtesy of a telephone interview with Applicants' representative on November 10, 2010. During the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed proposed amendments to independent claims 19, 23, 29, and 38, presented in this Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, that would overcome the current 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejections. The Examiner indicated that these amendments place the claims in such a condition that they should not be rejected by any of the current art of record.

Information Disclosure Statement

In view of the Examiner's comments on page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants hereby submit a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, submitting the foreign reference DE 19819200 A1, with a concise explanation of relevance. Applicants submission of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

Double-Patenting

Claim 36 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being allegedly a substantial duplicate of claim 34. Applicants have amended the dependency of claim 36 herein, and request reconsideration of this objection.

Claim 37 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being allegedly a substantial duplicate of claim 35. Applicants have amended the dependency of claim 37 herein, and request reconsideration of this objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 19-25 and 27-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, claims 19, 23, 29, and 38 are amended herein as discussed in the November 10, 2010 Examiner Interview.

Accordingly, as the amendments to 19, 23, 29, and 38 were suggested by and agreed to by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 19, 23, 29, and 38, and their respective dependent claims 20-22, 24-25, 27-28, 30-37, and 39-40, be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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